

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A system for distributing music to customer households comprising:

a data transmission system operable for blanket transmitting a plurality of music ~~selections~~ content items to customer households in digital form;

a user station at each of a plurality of customer households, the user station including;

means for said customer household to preselection of specific- ~~desired-transmitted~~ music ~~selections~~ content items for ~~recording~~ temporary storage;

a high capacity storage medium for temporarily storing selected music content items;

means for said system to preselection-preselect specific of desired- ~~transmitted-music selections~~ content items for ~~recording~~ temporary storage;

~~_____ a receiver and associated high capacity storage medium for recording preselected music selection in digital form;~~

an audio output for outputting audio signals from the storage medium to a playback device so that the customer household may playback anyone of the selected music content times ~~those recorded music selections it wishes to enjoy~~;

~~_____~~ means for said customer household to select anyone of the selected music content items that are temporarily stored in the high capacity storage medium for recording;

a central controller system having a database for storing therein an address corresponding to each customer household;

a communications link between each customer household and the central controller system to verify to the controller system when a ~~preselected music selection~~ selected music content item has been made available for playback recorded; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill customer households for ~~music selections~~ selected music content items that are made available for playback have been recorded.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising the steps of:

blanket transmitting a plurality of music ~~selections~~ content items to customer households by direct broadcast satellite (DBS) at data transmission rates faster than real time;

providing each customer household with information identifying available music ~~selections~~ content items that will be transmitted;

permitting said each customer household to preselect and ~~record~~ desired specific items of the music content items ~~music selections on~~ for temporary storage on a high capacity storage medium;

permitting said each customer household to playback ~~recorded~~ specific items that are temporarily stored on the high capacity storage medium ~~music selections~~;

permitting said each customer household to permanently record items that are temporarily stored on the high capacity storage medium;

communicating ~~music playback~~ information from said each customer household to a central controller system identifying items that are permanently recorded; and
billing said customer households for ~~the recorded music selections~~ items -
that are made available for ~~playback~~ permanently recorded.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The system of Claim 1 for distributing music to customer households providing means for accessing a very large content library, said content library comprising said ~~preselected music selections~~ content items.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The system of Claim 3 for distributing music to customer households comprising:

means for said customer household to constructing a play list of said very large content library; and,

means for playing said play list in any sequence at any time.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The system of Claim 4 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said means for said customer household constructing said play list comprises:

means for ordering said sequence including continuous playback, shuffle, sort-by-artist, sort-by-title or sort-by-category.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The system of Claim 5 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said high capacity storage medium ~~associated with said receiver~~ has a portion of said high capacity storage medium dedicated to ~~said recording preselected music selections~~ content items.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The system of Claim 6 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said high capacity storage medium ~~associated with said receiver~~ is a hard drive.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The system of Claim 7 wherein said means for said customer household to preselection specific of desired transmitted music selections content items for ~~recording~~ temporary storage comprises:

a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls providing music selection by artist, title and category.

Claim 9. (cancelled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2 for distributing music to customer households wherein said ~~customer household~~ playback step comprises:

said playback of ~~recorded~~ temporarily stored specific music content items ~~selections~~ according to a customer household created play list, said play list being arranged to play said recorded music selections in any sequence at any time.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 10 for distributing music to customer households wherein creation steps for said customer household created play list comprise:

providing a menu driven, graphical user interface with simplified controls for user selection of said music.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The system for distributing music of Claim 1 wherein said customer household preselection means comprises:

means for selecting specific music content items based on customer preferred music styles ~~by a customer of said customer household~~.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The system of Claim 12 wherein said ~~means for selecting customer preferred music styles by a customer of said customer household~~ comprises: are identified through the use of a graphical user interface with a music style preferences list.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The system of Claim ~~13~~ 12 wherein said ~~means for selecting customer preferred music styles by a customer of said customer household~~ comprises: are identified through the use of a graphical user interface with a music style, subgroup and artist preferences lists for a more detailed selection by said customer.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 1 wherein said high capacity storage medium is connected to a means for permanent storage.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 8 wherein a central controller system comprises:

- a general population cluster preference database;
- a customer catalog generator module;
- an individual customer preference information storage module; and,
- a payload scheduler.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 16 wherein said individual customer preference information storage module comprises:
means for obtaining said customer preferred music style of each customer.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 17 wherein said general population cluster preference database comprises:
means for obtaining said customer preferred music styles of a plurality of customer households.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 18 wherein said customer catalog generator module comprise:

means for generating an individual customer catalog based on an analysis of said customer preferred music styles of a plurality of customer households from said general population cluster preference database and said customer preferred music styles from said individual customer preference information storage module.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The system for distributing music of Claim 19 wherein a plurality of ID headers on all of the plurality of music selections are read and only those that are indicated by said individual customer catalog as being desirable to the customer are selected for recording.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The system for distributing music of Claim 1 ~~wherein further comprising a receiver that is operable to said receiver comprises~~ a download module for decoding pricing information and said transmitted music selections.

Claim 22. (cancelled)

Claim 23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2 for distributing music to customer households, wherein said direct broadcast satellite data transmission is accomplished with a 240 watt transponder thereby increasing effective transponder capacity.

Claims 24-25. (cancelled)

Claim 26. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein the step of a customer of said customer household selecting specific music content items further comprises selecting based on ~~selects~~ customer preferred music styles by using a graphical user interface having a musical style preferences list.

Claim 27. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26 wherein the step of a said customer of said customer household may selecting specific music content items using a graphical user interface further comprises selecting must content items based on select additional customer preferences of music subgroup and artist by using said graphical user interface having additionally a subgroup preferences list and an artist preferences list.

Claim 28-36. (cancelled)